

Archdiocese of Santa Fe  
4000 St. Joseph Place NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87120



**His Mercy  
Endures  
Forever...**

*Welcome the  
Stranger*

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

January 1, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome in the New Year! I wish you a blessed 2019.

Performing the corporal works of mercy shapes each of us to be merciful - offering the love of God to the world. It is also required of us for salvation - as Jesus tells us in Matthew 25. We are all called to be merciful.

In the spirit of what Saint Paul said to the Romans "...welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you", it is my hope that anyone who enters a Catholic church for Mass, or an event at any other time, will feel comfortable and welcome. Hospitality is everybody's ministry in the church. Hospitality is a virtue that is character building. We have each had the experience of being the guest or the host.

In the Beatitudes, (Mt 5:3-11) we are taught that the poor in spirit, the hungry, the persecuted and the reviled will be the ones to inherit the Kingdom. The lesson is that through Christ the rejected, excluded and abandoned become accepted. Showing others the hospitality of Christ is to provide that invitation of acceptance. The 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal theme, 'His Mercy Endures Forever - Welcome the Stranger' will emphasize this focus of our ministries.

Through our many ministries we invite the unfamiliar, unknown, and unformed people of our communities to engage in faith building and other services we provide. We engage with young adults to invite them to strengthen their faith; with the incarcerated to have hope of society reunification and to receive confession and/or receive the Eucharist; with those suffering from substance abuse, in nursing homes, living with disabilities and/or deafness to feel part of the greater community of the People of God.

Our ministries work with people of many cultures, backgrounds, talents and gifts in our Archdiocese. Everyone is invited. All are welcome. In the end, hospitality abides not in our homes but in our hearts. We must make room for the stranger.

I ask for your generous financial support of the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal, "His Mercy Endures Forever...Welcome the Stranger", as a way for us to work together to continue our necessary ministry in our communities.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend John C Wester  
Archbishop of Santa Fe